Consultancy services for the review and update of ESA data, maps, policy and management recommendations and its mainstreaming into ICZM planning in the Republic of Mauritius

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Sustainable Seas Ltd	Mauritius	39,000	100%	1	UNDP Mauritius	Adaptation Fund (UNDP)	Oct 2018 to July 2020	FCG ANZDEC

Detailed description of project

Mauritius forms part of the Western Indian Ocean Islands, one of the 25 internationally recognized biodiversity 'hotspots'. The tropical climate, topography and history of isolation, has resulted in the evolution of a diverse biota with a high degree of endemism. Terrestrial biodiversity is forest-dependent. However, much of the extant forest has been lost: land clearance and forest degradation has already impacted more than 90% of Mauritius Island's land surface. Marine biodiversity is in a better condition, but is also threatened. Extensive reef systems surround all the islands of the archipelago. Rodrigues harbours a large reef expanse, three times the size of the island.

The objective of the project is to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal zone management and into the operations and policies of the tourism and physical development sectors in the Republic of Mauritius through a 'land- and seascape wide' integrated management approach based on the Environmental Sensitive Areas' (ESAs) inventory and assessment. More specifically, the project will achieve this through a three-pronged approach: (1) support the incorporation of ESA recommendations into policies and enforceable regulations pertaining to integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), thereby mitigating threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and resilience with a special focus on tourism and physical development in the coastal zone; (2) support the effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs) across the RM, given that they contain an important proportion of critically sensitive ESAs; and (3) demonstrate mechanisms to arrest land degradation in sensitive locations, focusing on reducing coastal erosion and sedimentation and helping to restore ecosystem functions in key wetland areas.

Type of services provided

SSL were employed as ICZM Experts to help produce the final outputs as follows:

- Review and analyse the ESA study and to provide an update of the ESA study with emphasis on policies, regulations and guidelines aimed to protect and conserve the coastal and marine ESA's. (Lot 1 outputs)
- Assist the Team Leader to produce all the coastal plans and policies for Black River District and Rodrigues including reports on the baseline information required on coastal and marine resources of the area (Black River District and Rodrigues from ridge to reef).
- Report on the assessment of the environmental sensitivities of the areas for future development.
- Identification of measures and interventions for the management and protection of the area including options for potential development.
- Environment Monitoring Plans for Black River and Rodrigues.